

HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SUPERFUND SITE

QUESTION: What is the status of residential yard cleanups at the site?

ANSWER:

- Since 2001, 407 residents have had lead-contaminated yard soil replaced.
- Approximately 75 yards still need soil replacement.
- Lead levels are trending upwards in yards that have had soil replaced.
- Lead levels on roads used for smelter traffic remain elevated.
- EPA in discussions with the smelter operator releases during transportation.
- 145 home owners have sold homes to Doe Run and moved away from smelter under a voluntary buyout program.
- Doe Run has raised approximately 40 homes near smelter in preparation for moving fence line further out from the facility.

BACKGROUND:

- The Doe Run Company operates the only primary lead smelter in the nation in Herculaneum, Missouri, a town of 2,800 people located along the Mississippi River south of St. Louis.
- EPA investigations in 2001 found that residential yards, home interior dust, and streets in town all had extremely high levels of lead.
- Since 2001, Doe Run, pursuant EPA Orders, has performed extensive cleanup actions in town and taken significant actions to reduce ongoing emissions.
- From 2002 to 2004, the company made progress and conditions seemed to be improving. Air emissions reduced, yards/homes being cleaned, and truck wash installed.
- In 2005, regression observed with an increase in air emissions, releases from trucks during transportation, and continued recontamination of yards. Several areas are recontaminated above levels of health concern.

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES:

- In 2006, Senator Kit Bond secured \$2.55 million in funds to construct a new bridge in Herculaneum that would redirect smelter traffic away from homes along currently used concentrate haul routes.

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